ISLAMIC STUDY CIRCLE

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Imam Shafi'i

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THE FOUR IMAMS

Sunni Muslims believe that to follow the madh-hab (School of Law) of one of the following four Imams is essential. They respect all four Imams.

School of Law	Founder	Born	-	Died
1. Hanafi	Imam Abu Hanifah	700 CE	-	767 CE
2. Maliki	Imam Malik ibn Anas	716 CE	-	795 CE
3. Shafi'i	Imam Mohammad ibn Idris ash-Shafi	767 CE	-	820 CE
4. Hanbali	Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal	780 CE	-	855 CE

(The Mercy of Allah be upon them)

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
150-205 AH
767-820 CE

1. The architect of the Shafi'i School of Sunni Law in Islam
2. He was born in Gaza (Palestine) and raised in Makkah Al-Mukarramah
3. He belonged to the noble tribe of Quraysh and the family of Hashim
4. He had lived in contact with Arab tribes, thereby deepening his knowledge of the Arabic Language and Literature.
5. At the age of 7 he memorised the whole of the Quran i.e. became a Hafiz
6. At the age of 12 he memorised the whole of the Muatta of Imam Malik which is one of the prominent early collections of Hadith (1720 sayings on Fiqh)
7. He studied Fiqh and Hadith at first in Makkah with Shaikh Muslim Ibn Khalid who was Mufti of Makkah
8. Later he went to Madinah and studied Fiqh and Hadith with Imam Malik Ibn Anas.
9. He also pursued studies in Baghdad with Imam Muhammad Ibn Hasan ash-Shaibani, who was a disciple of Imam Abu Hanifah.
10. He was honoured by Imam Malik and other scholars of Madina at the age of 15 when they all consented to declare him a Mufti.
11. He passed away in Qairo (Egypt) at the age of 54
12. The Shafi'i School is dominant in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Egypt.

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
Moral and Spiritual Excellence

1. He used to recite the whole Quran daily
2. During the month of Ramadan he used to recite the whole Quran 60 times
3. He used to divide his nights into 3 parts. One third for sleeping, one third for recitation of the Quran and prayers, and one third for Islamic Studies
4. Every day between Salat-ul-Asr and Salat-ul-Maghrib he used to perform Zikr of Allah Almighty
5. He was a talented Qari and used to recite the Quran so beautifully that people listening to his recitation cried and sank into its melodious rhythm and odour of sanctity.
6. He was a great lover of Ahl-ul-Bayt
7. He himself disclosed that for a period of 20 years he never ate sufficiently (i.e. was never full of stomach)
8. He was extremely generous. Once Haroon al-Rashid offered a Hadiya of 50,000 Dirham. He distributed 40,000 Dirham among orphans, widows, and the poor.

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
Academic Testimonials

1. He was one of the prominent scholars of Linguistic Science of Classical Arabic. He had memorised thousands of poems of Arab Poets
2. He is considered one of the great scholars of Arabic Literature by the authors, scholars and writers of Classical Arabic
3. He was also a prominent scholar of Arab History
4. He also studied Astronomy and Medicine
5. He was a skilled debater
6. Among the scholars of Hadith, he occupies a very special place
7. He wrote about 113 books on Islamic issues/subjects
8. "Kitab-ul-Umm" is his marvellous collection of Hadith, covering 140 topics, containing 4000 pages in 7 volumes
9. He also compiled two other collections of Hadith, known as Kitab-ul-Mabsoot and Musnad ash-Shafi'i
10. In one of his books on the topic of principles of Fiqh (Kitab-ur-Risalah) he has outlined the regulations that govern the methodology of Fiqh, in the light of the Quran and the Hadith. This is an academic work of the highest standard

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
As a Teacher

Imam Shafi'i (Allah's Mercy be upon him) was an outstanding Master of Fiqh and Hadith. Hundreds of students from all over the world used to attend his discourses. According to one report, people had seen 700 horses and camels and other transports at one time outside his home, used by people coming to him to learn Fiqh and Hadith. Some of his prominent students were:

1. **Imam Abu Bakr Abdullah Ibn Zubair Hamidi of Makkah** (d. 219 AH) A teacher of Imam Bukhari (194 - 256 AH), a great scholar of Hadith and Fiqh.
2. **Imam Hurmala Ibn Yahya of Egypt** (166 AH - 244 AH) A teacher of Imam Muslim (204 AH -261 AH) and Imam Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Majah (209 AH - 273 AH)
3. **Imam Sulaim Ibn Daud of Baghdad** (d. 219 AH) A teacher of Imam Bukhari
4. **Imam Hasan Ibn Muhammad of Baghdad** (d. 259 AH) A teacher of Imam Bukhari, Imam Abu Daud (202 AH - 275 AH) and Imam Tirmidhi (209 AH- 279 AH)
5. **Imam Ismail Ibn Yahya Muzni of Egypt** (175 AH - 264 AH) A great scholar of Shafi'i Fiqh, Author of several books on Hadith
6. **Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal** (164 AH - 241 AH) Founder of the Hanbli School of Law, A great scholar of Fiqh and Hadith

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
Some of the great followers of Imam Shafi'i

1. **Imam Ahmed Ibn Hussain al-Baihiqi** (384 AH - 458 AH) Author of Sunan al-Kubra (10 Volumes) Sho'b-ul-Iman. A great preacher of the Shafi'i School
2. **Imam Shahabuddin Ibn Hajr al-Asqalani** (773 AH-852 AH) Fath-ul-Bari (A Commentary of Bukhari - 17 Volumes) Tahzib-ut-Tahzib (12 Volumes Reporters of Six books of Hadith) Lisan-ul-Mizan (6 Volumes - Critique of Reporters) Esabah (History of Sahabah) Author of 150 Books on Hadith and related topics. His work is widely accepted and used by the scholars of all the schools of law.
3. **Imam Jaluddin Ibn Abu Bakr Siuti** (849 AH - 911 AH) Tafseer Jalalain, Al-Ettiqan, Tareekh-ul-Khulafa
4. **Imam Jaluddin Ibn Ahmed Mahalli** (791 AH - 864 AH) Tafseer Jalalain
5. **Imam Abu Zakaria Mohiuddin Nauwi** (631 AH - 676 AH) Commentary on Muslim (Hadith)
6. **Imam Abu Muhammad Hussain Ibn Masu'd Baghwi** (d. 516 AH) Sharh-us-Sunnah (Hadith)
7. **Imam Shahabuddin Ahmed Ibn Muhammad al-Qastalani** (d. 923 AH) Irshad-us-Sari (Commentary on Bukhari - Hadith)
8. **Imam Abu Suleman Ahmed Ibn Muhammad al-Khattabi** (d. 338 AH) E'lam-us-Sunan (The first Commentary on Bukhari)
9. **Imam Muhammad Fakhruddin Razi** (544 AH - 606 AH)
10. **Imam Abu Hamid Muhammad Ibn Ghazali** (450 AH - 505 AH)

Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi'i
Some contrasting features between Hanfi & Shafi'i Schools

Hanfi	Shafi'i
1. Wudhu is valid without its intention (Niyah)	1. Wudhu without intention is not valid
2. Sequence is not necessary in actions involved in Wudhu	2. Sequence of actions is compulsory
3. Laughter in Salah will invalidate both Salah and Wudhu	3. Only Salah would become invalid
4. Qadha of an optional (Nafl) Fast is Fardh	4. It is not Fardh
5. Divorce under duress (compulsion by use of force or threat) is valid	5. Such a divorce is not valid
6. During illness and travelling the combining of Salah is not allowed	6. It is allowed
7. While offering Salah in Jama'ah Surah al-Fatiha should not be recited by Muqtadis	7. It is necessary for everyone to recite Surah al-Fatiha
8. Payment of Zakah is not necessary on savings/assets owned by under-age children (Nabaligh)	8. Payment of Zakah is Fardh on such savings/assets
9. A mature girl (Baligh) can enter into a Nikah (Marriage Contract) even against the wishes of her Wali (Father, Elder Brother, Uncle etc.) or without their permission	9. It is not allowed
10. Qurbani (offering sacrifice of an animal on Eid al-Adaha) is Wajib on every independent person of a family	10. One Qurbani on behalf of the whole family is sufficient